



NEWS RELEASE

DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICE
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DFAS employees win national finance awards

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Four military Defense Finance and Accounting Service employees won national awards at the 2002 American Society of Military Comptrollers' national training.

Senior Master Sgt. Joe Banks, superintendent for Air Force Military Pay Operations, won the Meritorious Performance Award for the Unit under a Major Command.

Maj. J. Helming, DFAS Omaha chief of Accounting Reports and Analysis and Air Force Element commander, won the Analysis and Evaluation Award for the Unit under a Major Command.

Master Sgt. Dave A. Du Bois, DFAS Dayton military training manager, won the Education/Training and Career Development award.

Senior Master Sgt. Cornelius Peoples, superintendent Defense Finance and Accounting Service Japan, won a financial management award from the under secretary of Defense for Comptroller.

Banks said, "I think the role I played by developing, coordinating with all services, and publishing a new Department of Defense form to be used to claim and recoup Thrift Savings Plan lost earnings and make-up contributions is only one of the reasons for my winning this award.

"With my troop's assistance, I was also able to spearhead the inclusion of Military Pay as a separate subject matter area for upgrade training, and we accomplished many other great things.

"One mission cannot happen without dedicated military and civilian personnel, and I am extremely thrilled to have been selected from among all of the outstanding nominees from throughout the Department of Defense," Banks explained.

Helming was honored for his work with "FM Tools," a free customer service program that built a worldwide bridge between budget requirements and accounting data.

"FM tools" allows DFAS customers to download financial data from multiple DFAS databases worldwide daily. The entire process of extracting, merging and shipping files takes approximately 35 minutes and data is updated every two hours.

(more)

While “FM Tools” is considered a useful tool throughout the year, during fiscal 2001 closeout, Air Force operating and working capital funds valued in excess of \$50 billion were viewed using the tool.

“I am honored to have been selected for this prestigious award. It is especially gratifying to receive an award from my peers in the comptroller community,” said Helming.

Du Bois is the military training manager of DFAS Dayton’s Red, White and Blue Training Program and has been at Dayton since June 1996. His training program has been benchmarked by more than 15 installations, because of its efficiency and cost effectiveness.

“The training program is efficient, because there are three military teams, red, white and blue, and they cross areas, so all the military in one area aren’t away at the same time,” explained DuBois. “We keep training sessions to one hour to make sure customer service is not affected in an area.”

He is the sole military training manager for 70 military personnel and directed more than 80 training classes during 2001.

Peoples, who is called a “visionary” by his superiors, was honored for his resourcefulness, commitment and successes in implementing training and mentoring initiatives and practices.

“Initiatives don’t usually come from one person,” said Peoples. “Typically the commander or some of the enlisted members come up with an idea, and my job, basically, is to bring those to fruition.”

“None of this would have been possible without the great support and the men and women here at DFAS,” said Peoples.

The Youngstown, Ohio, native also thanked the Japanese work force. “They are the ones who do the job day in and day out – they are our constant,” he said. “Then add our U.S. civilians as well as our enlisted members, they are the team players that make these kinds of things happen.”

Peoples’ leadership helped DFAS Japan consistently exceed all Air Force Accounting metrics and 29 of 33 metrics from the other services.

The awards were presented at ASMC’s annual professional development institute at Denver in May. More than 3,600 military and civilian finance and accounting government professionals attended the ASMC training comprised of more than 80 workshops on financial management, Human Resources, Resource Management, personal growth and more.